

# The Center to Protect Workers' Rights



Health & Safety  
Research & Training



- 501(c) (3) not-for-profit safety and health research and training arm of the BCTD
- Largest safety and health operation in the labor movement
- Largest construction safety and health research and training organization in the U.S.
- Over 40 full-time staff conducting research and managing training.





# CPWR's funding

- CPWR is funded almost entirely through Federal grant programs
- CPWR has an annual operating budget of approximately \$15 million
- CPWR's program consists of 3 major components:
  - Research (NIOSH)
  - Training (NIEHS – EPA & DOE)
  - Medical screening programs (DOE)



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graph TD; A[BCTD / AFL-CIO] --> B[CPWR]; B --> C[CPWR Affiliated Unions]; C --> D[CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE]; B <--> E[NIEHS]; B <--> F[NIOSH]
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BCTD / AFL-CIO

NIEHS

CPWR

NIOSH

CPWR Affiliated Unions

CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE





- Asbestos Workers & Insulators
- Boilermakers
- Bricklayers
- Carpenters & Joiners
- Plasterers & Cement Masons
- Electrical Workers
- Iron Workers
- Painters
- Plumbers & Pipe Fitters
- Roofers
- Sheet Metal Workers



COURSE TYPE	HOURS
Hazardous Waste Worker	40 hours
Hazardous W. Worker Refresher	8 hours
Confined Space	16 hours
Asbestos Worker	32 hours
Asbestos Contractor / Supervisor	40 hours
Asbestos Refresher	8 hours
Lead Worker	32 hours
Lead Contractor / Supervisor	40 hours
Lead Refresher	8 hours
MSDS Hazard Communication	8 hours
OSHA Const. Train-the-Trainer	40 hours
OSHA Gen. Ind. Train-the-Trainer	40 hours
OSHA Gen. Const. Safety Training	10 hours
OSHA Gen. Ind. Safety Training	10 hours



# CPWR's activities with DOE

- Training in 2003
  - 399 courses nationwide
  - 5,536 workers trained
  - 59,200 contact hours
- Developing Curriculum
- Training Instructors





# Training construction workers

- At HAMMER
  - Active workforce
- Near DOE facilities
  - Active workforce
  - Former / future workforce
- Outside the DOE
  - Curriculum extends to the Building Trades



# Disaster Response Training

- New training initiative based on lessons learned from 9/11
- Incorporates lessons learned from DOE





# Medical Screening Programs

- For BCT workers exposed to hazards during past work at DOE sites
- Programs include
  - Hanford
  - Oak Ridge
  - Savannah River
  - Portsmouth
  - Paducah





# Medical Screening Programs

- Notices have been sent to 65,000+ workers, 8,500 were contacted
- In-depth interviews have been conducted
- 7,500 have completed screening



# Medical Screening Programs

## Findings:

- Most workers believe their work at DOE has resulted in harmful health effects
- 1/2 of workers examined have x-ray evidence of lung damage
- Beryllium exposure has been identified by this program
- Large number of workers have serious medical problems, 420 cases of cancer, 40 of thyroid disease





# Silicosis Screening Program

- In cooperation with the University of Cincinnati
- For current and former workers at Yucca Mountain Project in Nevada
- To protect workers involved in tunneling and underground operations & at Exploratory Studies Facility from 1992 to present



# EEOICPA

- CPWR has offered to help DOE with the compensation plan, unsuccessfully
- CPWR can produce employment evidence for construction workers
- DOE has not be able to locate employment records
- CPWR uses union dispatch records, pension fund records, other union records





# DOL

- CPWR is currently working with DOL to help provide evidence of employment for construction workers, under subpart B of EEOICPA.